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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. No more than ten percent of the radio receivers in Kherson (N46-40, E32-35) were capable of receiving foreign broadcasts; most of the other radios had only medium and long wave reception. In the USSR foreign broadcasts could be received only on short wave and ultra short wave. The cheapest radio receiver with three wave lengths was the Rekord, which cost about 360 rubles, which is more than most individuals could afford. In 1951 and 1952 in Kherson, VOA and BBC broadcasts in Russian on the 41 to 49 meter band of a Rekord radio from 2100 to 2300 hours. BBC reception was much clearer than that of VOA because the latter broadcasts were jammed. Examples of better make r adios than the Rekord are the Leningrad, the Minsk, and the FAG. the last set is manufactured at the Riga Radio Factory and costs up to 1,600 rubles. 25X1 25X1

2. From 1945 to 1952, the number of radios capable of receiving foreign broadcasts noticeably increased. Quite a number of such sets were brought back by service men from "liberated" countries after the war, and some were manufactured by Soviet plants.

3. Registration of radio receivers was obligatory, and a tax was then automatic. Registration was done with the radio section of one's own town or rayon sovet (radio otdel). The annual tax was standard for all types of radio sets and did not exceed a few rubles.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. [redacted] any law, decree, or directive of the government which prohibited the Soviet population from listening to foreign broadcasts. However, it was forbidden, de facto; persons denounced for listening to foreign broadcasts were immediately arrested by the militia and usually disappeared. 25X1

[redacted] such arrests were most probably made on trumped-up charges of another crime. [redacted] it was very "unhealthy" to listen to foreign broadcasts, even if there was no specific legal prohibition. 25X1

5. [redacted] every radio which was capable of receiving foreign broadcasts must have been used now and then for listening to such broadcasts. Probably such listening was not done regularly and certainly not by all members of the family. But it could be assumed that if the husband, who, [redacted] was the secretary of the City Party Committee, did not do so, his wife most probably did anyway; if she did not, the son or the daughter would have been likely to do so. [redacted] it is typical of the Soviet mentality to do what is prohibited. 25X1 25X1

6. [redacted] an example of this independent attitude. There was quite a bit of drinking among Soviet officers in Germany. This drinking, however, except in a few cases, never became indulgence to excess. About 50 percent of the officers drank just as much as they had been accustomed to in the USSR - no more, no less. The others did not drink at all. Such drinking was quite normal and customary. However, when Chuykov's "dry regime" was established, not only the consumption of liquor increased, but individuals who had never done so before began to drink. The number of those who drank went up to 80 percent or more. An officer would bring a bottle of vodka with him to lunch, keep it under the table, and empty it during the meal; or the vodka was put in a teapot and poured into teacups or else simply served at the table disguised as soda water. On the other hand, the number of solitary drinkers, who had been scarce before, considerably increased. 25X1

7. [redacted] another officer very often used to tune his radio to foreign broadcasts [redacted] He would go from one end of the dial to the other, would stop at VOA, listen for one or two minutes, and then go on further. Then again he would return to VOA, listen for a few minutes, and make some remark about "dirty American lies". It was obvious that the man was interested in foreign broadcasts, and [redacted] when he was by himself he often listened to them. 25X1 25X1

8. The prompt reaction of foreign stations to the latest Soviet news was very welcome [redacted] the foreign stations would be broadcasting their comments on the headlines. Everybody was interested to learn what the other side would say. 25X1

9. [redacted] 25X1

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10. Wired speaker installations and group radio listening centers were available in new buildings, blocks of apartment houses, plants, factories, and military barracks in the USSR and Soviet Zone of Germany. However, in private apartments, owners had to buy loudspeakers if they wanted such listening services. Since loudspeakers were much cheaper than radio receivers, the low income class in the Soviet Union more often bought loudspeakers than personal radios. Installation of loudspeakers was most common in urban centers, and the larger sovkhozy and kolkhozy where group listening centers were normally installed in kolkhoz and sovkhoz clubs.

11. [redacted] the following types of radio receivers which were available on the Kherson market: 25X1

a. "Moskvich": medium and long wave; 195 rubles

b. "Rekord": short, medium, and long wave; 360 rubles

c. "Minsk": with the same wave lengths as the Rekord; 1,200 rubles

d. "FAG": with all wave lengths; 1,200-1,300 rubles

e. "Leningrad": with all wave lengths and built-in record player; 1,600 rubles.

12. Radio repair shops were encountered in towns where there were electrical equipment and radio stores with which they were generally affiliated. Parts were always available, although the supply of some was sometimes scarce. In smaller towns people preferred to have their radios repaired by amateur radio technicians who would do a better job for less money than the state radio repair shops.

13. Jamming in the USSR and Soviet Zone was quite effective; [redacted] In Germany [redacted] that jamming was done mainly by the Prague radio station. [redacted] VOA broadcasts in Ukrainian both in Kherson and in the Soviet Zone. [redacted] were not jammed as much as the broadcasts in Russian. 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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